

Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and lists of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended): A brush section ~~(19)~~ for an electric powered toothbrush ~~(11)~~ comprising,
a first end having a connector ~~(35)~~ adapted to be joined to a handle section ~~(10)~~;
a second end containing a head ~~(47)~~, which head ~~(47)~~ terminates in a toe ~~(37)~~;
said head ~~(47)~~ containing a non-segmented bristle carrier ~~(24)~~ with a first portion ~~(25)~~ closest to said first end, which first portion ~~(25)~~ is generally disk shaped with a generally circular cross-section;
said first portion ~~(25)~~ has one or more fingers ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom, in a direction generally distal from said first end;
said bristle carrier ~~(24)~~ has a face ~~(13)~~ extending across said first portion ~~(25)~~ and across said one or more fingers ~~(51)~~, from which face ~~(13)~~ extends a plurality of bristle tufts ~~(23)~~;
wherein said face ~~(13)~~ has a shape other than circular or oval;
said handle section ~~(10)~~ contains a driving means which is drivingly engaged to said bristle carrier ~~(24)~~;
whereby in use, the bristles extending from the one or more fingers ~~(51)~~ provides increased contact with the gingival tissues and enhanced massaging thereof.
2. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 1, wherein said bristle carrier ~~(24)~~ has one finger ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom.
3. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 2, wherein the face ~~(13)~~ of said bristle carrier ~~(24)~~ is generally egg-shaped.
4. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 1, wherein said carrier ~~(24)~~ has two fingers ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom.
5. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 1, wherein said carrier ~~(24)~~ has three fingers ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom.

6. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 1, wherein the bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ has a bottom surface ~~(45)~~ opposite to said face ~~(13)~~, which bottom surface ~~(45)~~ has a front edge ~~(33)~~, ~~said bottom surface (45) is attached to the center of said bristle carrier (21) by a rotational supporting means to a bristle carrier support (31);~~ said bottom surface of the bristle carrier is attached to a bristle carrier support by a rotational supporting means; which bristle carrier support ~~(31)~~ has a first end integral with the head ~~(47)~~ and a second free, toe end ~~(43)~~; the bristle carrier support ~~(31)~~ extends from said head ~~(47)~~ to a point between the toe ~~(37)~~ of the head ~~(47)~~ and the center of said bristle carrier ~~(21)~~, where there is a separation ~~(41)~~ between the free, toe end ~~(43)~~ of the bristle carrier support ~~(31)~~ and the bottom surface ~~(45)~~ of the bristle carrier ~~(21)~~; the front edge ~~(33)~~ of the bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ has a convex curve arcing away from the face ~~(13)~~, the convex curve arc extending further away from said face ~~(13)~~ than the separation ~~(41)~~ in a direction transverse to the face ~~(13)~~.

7. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 6, wherein the convex curve has a radius of curvature of at least about 1 mm.

8. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 6, wherein the free toe end ~~(43)~~ is configured as a convex curve arcing away from the face surface ~~(13)~~.

9. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 8, wherein the convex curve of the free toe end ~~(43)~~ has a radius of curvature of at least about 0.5mm.

10. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 1, wherein the plurality of bristles tufts extending from the first portion ~~(25)~~ of said face ~~(13)~~ are arranged in generally concentric rings and the bristles tufts extending from the one or more fingers ~~(51)~~ are arranged in rows ~~(27, 29)~~.

11. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 10, wherein the bristle tufts in said rows ~~(27, 29)~~ are longer than the bristle tufts within the concentric rings of bristle tufts.

12. (currently amended): A method of providing enhanced massage of the oral gingival tissue using an electric powered toothbrush ~~(11)~~ comprising, providing an elongated brush section ~~(19)~~ having a head ~~(47)~~ at one end and a connector ~~(35)~~ at the other end, which head ~~(47)~~ terminates in a toe ~~(37)~~ remote from said connector

~~(35)~~, which connector is adapted to be connected to a handle section ~~(10)~~; said head ~~(47)~~ contains a non-segmented bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ with a first portion ~~(25)~~ closest to said connector ~~(35)~~, which first portion ~~(25)~~ is generally disk shaped with a generally circular cross-section; the first portion has one or more fingers ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom in a direction generally distal from said connector ~~(35)~~; which bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ has a face ~~(13)~~ which extends across said circular cross-section of said first portion ~~(25)~~ and across said one or more fingers ~~(51)~~; from which face ~~(13)~~ extends a plurality of bristle tufts ~~(23)~~; wherein said face ~~(13)~~ has a shape other than circular or oval; the handle section ~~(10)~~ being arranged to contain a driving means which is drivingly engaged to said carrier ~~(21)~~; applying said carrier ~~(21)~~ to the gingival tissues, whereby in use, the bristles extending from the one or more fingers ~~(51)~~, providing increased bristle contact with the gingival tissue, enhancing the massaging therefrom.

13. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 12, wherein said carrier ~~(21)~~ has one finger ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom.

14. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 13, wherein the face ~~(13)~~ is generally egg-shaped.

15. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 12, wherein said carrier ~~(21)~~ has two fingers ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom.

16. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 12, wherein said carrier ~~(21)~~ has three fingers ~~(51)~~ extending therefrom.

17. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 12, wherein the bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ has a bottom surface opposite to said face surface ~~(13)~~, which bottom surface has a front edge ~~(33)~~ proximate to said toe ~~(37)~~, which front edge ~~(33)~~ is arcuate.

18. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 17, wherein the front edge ~~(33)~~ is arcuate with a radius of curvature of at least about 1 mm.

19. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 14, wherein the plurality of bristles tufts extending from the first portion ~~(25)~~ of the bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ are arranged in generally concentric rings of bristle tufts and the bristle tufts

extending from the finger ~~(54)~~ portion of the carrier ~~[21]~~ are arranged in rows ~~(27,~~
~~29)~~.

20. (currently amended) The brush section ~~(19)~~ of method claim 19, wherein the bristle tufts within said rows ~~(27, 29)~~ are longer than the bristle tufts within the concentric rings of bristle tufts.

21. (currently amended): A brush section ~~(19)~~ for an electric toothbrush ~~(11)~~ comprising, a first end having a connector ~~(35)~~ adapted to be joined to a handle section ~~(10)~~; a second end containing a head ~~(47)~~, which head ~~(47)~~ terminates in a toe ~~(37)~~ and contains a bristle carrier support having an upper surface, the head ~~(47)~~ and connector ~~(35)~~ are generally aligned along the longitudinal axis of the toothbrush ~~(11)~~; ~~the~~ a non-segmented bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ which is centrally supported by rotational means from the upper surface ~~(49)~~ of a said bristle carrier support ~~(31)~~; which bristle carrier support ~~(31)~~ has a first end integral with the head ~~(47)~~ and a second free, toe end ~~(43)~~; the bristle carrier support ~~(31)~~ extends from said head ~~(47)~~ to a point between the toe ~~(37)~~ of the head ~~(47)~~ and the center of said bristle carrier ~~(21)~~; the bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ has a front edge ~~(33)~~ which is convex with respect to said connector ~~(33)~~, which convex front edge ~~(33)~~ arcs transversely further from the longitudinal axis of said toothbrush ~~(11)~~ than any point on the upper surface ~~(49)~~ of said bristle support carrier ~~(31)~~, such that in use the users lip or gingival tissue will not be pinched between the front edge ~~(33)~~ of the bristle carrier ~~(21)~~ and the upper surface ~~(49)~~ of the bristle carrier support ~~(31)~~.

22. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 21, wherein the free toe end ~~(43)~~ is a convex arc in relation to said connector ~~(35)~~.

23. (currently amended): The brush section ~~(19)~~ of claim 1, wherein the brush section ~~(19)~~ is integrally joined to the handle section ~~(10)~~.